

**LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL
PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
Tuesday, November 12, 2013
9:00 a.m.**

Attendees: Council Member Turner Perrow, Chair, Council Member Joan Foster, Mayor Michael Gillette, ex-officio; (Council Member Perrow noted Vice-Mayor Johnson was out of town attending National League of Cities meeting)

Staff Present: Bonnie Svrcek, Gaynelle Hart, Kent White, Tim Mitchell, Lee Newland, Starlette Early

Others Present: Rick Stranskey (Lighttower Fiber Networks), Alicia Petska (News & Advance)

Contract Awards:

There were no recent or pending contract awards to report for this month.

Update on Priority Projects:

Mr. Newland reported work is being done to complete Midtown Connector intersection at Fort Avenue and Park; scheduled to open by Friday. Council Member Perrow asked for an update on section of 5th Street. Mr. Newland indicated they are paving block by block (surface stripping) currently in the Court to Church Street area and completing streetscape; working to finish by Thanksgiving holiday. There was discussion regarding course for Turkey Trot race and coordination for safety of runners, along with working with other venues such as James River Conference Center to keep everyone in loop on schedule of work to minimize impact to community.

General Business:

- a. Sidera Networks – Installation of Fiber Optic Cable – Sidera Networks, LLC d/b/a Lighttower Fiber Networks, has submitted a request for the installation of approximately 57,435 feet of fiber optic cable in city right-of-way, of which 43,015 is aerial and 14,420 feet is underground. Sidera Networks is partnered with VDOT to build a network of fiber optic cable throughout the State of Virginia.

Mr. Newland noted the attached map reflecting areas of proposed installation and indicated staff's recommendation to move to full Council for approval to grant a license agreement to Sidera Networks. He also noted Sidera Networks is required to submit site plans to the City for review of impact as they move throughout the areas of installation.

Mayor Gillette inquired about impact to land and traffic disruptions in areas requiring underground installation; Mr. Stranskey explained Sidera's use of a directional drill, installation of cable in conduits, and work schedule during night to minimize associated impact.

Mr. Mitchell explained this type of underground utility work resulted in an operational and fiscal impact for the City; it requires use of contracted company to mark location of utilities and sewer laterals required additional process to televise and physically locate them since older ones do not usually have an associated tracer wire. Discussion continued with more specific details related to locating and marking current utility lines and Sidera's methods to confirm these location markings.

Council Member Foster asked for clarification on fiscal impact to City in regards to cost for locating and marking existing utilities and who absorbs those costs. Mr. Mitchell requested that Sidera Network work closely with the City in coordinating this process as areas identified for installation have many utility lines and pipes. There was discussion on timelines for start of work, duration of work, City process for approval of site plans, and development of license agreement. Mr. Stranskey offered to coordinate with City staff in pre-planning site visits to minimize any operational issues and Mr. Newland suggested, in anticipation of approval from Council, site plans be developed as soon as possible to expedite workflow.

Council Member Perrow inquired about benefits for the City. It was noted the fiber optic cable, part of 1,300 miles being built in Virginia, would be accessible at designated splice points (every 1,500 feet) to businesses throughout the City. Consensus was to move this request to Council for their consideration with recommendation from PDC to approve.

- b. VDOT Revenue Sharing Program – Staff is proposing to participate in the VDOT Revenue Sharing Program to help with the funding of two projects. The projects that are being submitted and their estimated costs are listed below in priority order.

Main Street Bridge (Add'l. Funding)	\$2,500,000	Total Project	\$3,026,188
Un-named Road off Candler's Mtn. Rd.	2,500,000	Total Phase 1	2,500,000
Total	\$5,000,000		

The un-named road off of Candler's Mountain Road proceeds to the east toward the proposed Odd Fellows Interchange and is a partnership with Liberty University. If this is approved, the right-of-way will be donated to the City and Lynchburg University will make an additional financial contribution. This is the first phase of this new road.

Mr. Newland explained the Revenue Sharing Program with VDOT and summarized the City's request for the above listed projects. Confirming this project was locally administered, Council Member Perrow advised the committee (and noted it was the opinion of the City Attorney) that this item does not create a conflict of interest for him since it is a City project.

The un-named road is the first phase of a three-phase road construction project with the ultimate goal to connect Candler's Mountain Road with Odd Fellows Road. There was additional discussion detailing the area of road being developed in each phase and the order of development as it relates to the City's proposed development of the Odd Fellow's Road Interchange. The committee agreed to move it forward to full Council with their recommendation for approval.

- c. VDOT Revenue Sharing Program – Campbell County/Liberty University – Campbell County has requested the City of Lynchburg to support their participation to partner with Liberty University to construct Liberty Mountain Drive from Campbell County into the City of Lynchburg. This road would connect from Wards Road at the Airport to the end of the existing Liberty Mountain Drive. Although Liberty Mountain Drive is within the City limits, it is a VDOT maintained road and would not require any additional maintenance from the City.

Mr. Newland explained the location of roads involved in this project and Campbell County's requirement by VDOT to receive concurrence from the local government they are in. Council Member Perrow inquired about the City's responsibility to maintain the small portion of road crossing over City lines. Mr. Newland indicated the road was located in the 460 right-of-way and was considered a frontage road.

Council Member Foster questioned whether supporting their Revenue Sharing Project would offset the City's request above for its own projects. There was further discussion on the amount of funds available in the VDOT program and how different localities receive support.

With no fiscal impact to the City, PDC's consensus was to move this item forward to Council with their recommendation to support the resolution for Campbell County.

Roll Call:

There were no items.

Next meeting: December 10, 2013